

The spring of 1879 I wrote Gen Riggins - at Sarasota, formerly of Grant's staff - to have his colored boy collect me seeds - but never heard of him. Mrs Riggins knows the plant, it grows around their house and she drew my attention to it, and seem to take a fancy to it on account of the black variegated leaves due to a fungus the name of which Mr Peck sent me but I have now forgotten, but probably the same that is met on the next genus Stylanthus elatior. Chapmanii grows on high, dry barren white sandridges.

In collecting at Porto Rico. I cannot expect to do as much as a well man, yet I would desire to make a certain number of specimens of each species for distribution - and submit all to you direct for study and ship all in your care at intervals as I collect - so that I will not have the trouble in keeping them from sweating and become mouldy and lose color entirely as they are so apt to do in bulk in a hot climate.

Truly Yours
A. P. Garber,

Philadelphia, Penna
Dec. 17, 1879.

Dear Doctor,

I left Columbia day before yesterday, and wrote you briefly - saying that I will go to Porto Rico and remain in this city until 26 inst and New York 27 inst take passage in Steam ship Bermuda. Meanwhile you send me here any instruction you may think proper. My health has been improving the last few months, and I feel considerable stronger than I did thro' the summer, but whether it will remain so I do not know.

I accidentally met and made the acquaintance of two merchants here this morning who have lived in the West Indies recently and are properly holders there, who have given me much information and assure me that I will meet with a most hospitable people and who will take pleasure in furthering my interest - this with encouragement from our botanists - and you in particular - and the mental employment in the study of a new flora, is a stimulus of good influence upon my disease - besides the change of treatment recently has enabled me to hold my cough and expectoration in much better control. Now I intend to take

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in my employ a man who will meet it - has ripe seed and could
carry the portfolia and help to dry the specimens so that I can make
more progress and not tax my physical strength too much.

I am told that I will not need a pass but that letters of introduction would be a great help to me.

Enclosed please find a *Nitricularia*, that I found in the low Pine barrens at Manatee and Tampa - for some time I looked upon it as a var. of *N. subulata* - but so far I failed to meet any intermediate forms, the chief points of difference are the smaller size of the plant 1-3 inches high, very small corolla $\frac{1}{2}$ line long, nearly white and fugacious, and the certainly immature seeds - I studied it in the fresh state and thought I noticed some other characters under the microscope but it was but a small dissecting microscope and not satisfactory - Perhaps you can grow it from the seeds it grows in wet ground border of ponds and low pine woods.

In a little parcel I sent a *Helianthus* - grow in old fields in hummocks at Rosewood, Levee Co., and Manatee, it was too far gone when I

also included what I take for *Salvia coccinea* var. *ciliata*, Benth. - grows sporadically on the Key at Sarasota, - also a *Passiflora* from Key Largo - climber high - saw no fl. or fr. also fresh water plant without fl. or fr. abundant on upper hillsboro River, ^{10 miles above} Tampa - I have not distributed any of these for they were unsatisfactory.

There are some other new plants in South Florida to our flora but I failed to get satisfactory specimens. 2 Palms - one I think *Oreodora rigia* - and a *Stenolobus Sabel* - may be *S. saturnia* Lodd. - but saw no fl. and don't know. A *Euphorbia* - from Cape Sabel - which Dr Engelman pronounced new to our flora but I did not know it.

Like wine enclosed you find seeds *Chapmania* - collected June 1878 for you - but at the time I tied them up with mosses, and forgot where I put them - Fortunately in transferring these mosses to other papers a month ago to my great joy they turned up. In the